

Personal Cultural Identity

These questions are designed for self-reflection and discussion.

1. How would you describe your own cultural/ethnic background? How would you describe the background (ethnicity, work, education, and roles) of your grandparents and other extended family members?
2. How did your family define your cultural/ethnic identity to you during your childhood? What are some of the underlying values and expectations that you were culturally-conditioned to have?
3. What are some of the rituals of your family life that are important to you (either on a regular basis or on special occasions)?
4. Describe the environment where you grew up (home, geographical, demographic). How did your family relate to the surrounding community in terms of culture/ethnicity during your childhood?
5. Reflect on your first encounter with someone from a different culture. Who was the person? Where did the encounter take place? What did you learn about yourself from the encounter?
6. Finish this sentence: When I am around other people who speak another language other than my own, I feel... because...
7. How does your personal cultural identity (comprised of your cultural/ethnic background, values, rituals, and experiences) influence your interaction with persons from other cultures and ethnic backgrounds?